

**NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS****JUNE 2024**

**BARS meetings are now “hybrid” – the meeting will be held at the Chelmsford Bible Church and available simultaneously on Zoom.**

The safety and well-being of our membership is important to us. Those members who feel uncomfortable attending in person can continue to join us over Zoom.

--BARS Management.

## A Message from the President

By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings Fellow Members,

I hope everyone is having a great late Spring. Late Spring can mean only one thing...that Field Day is just around the corner. Field Day is the “Open House” of our great ham radio hobby. Ham radio, above all else, is about the people behind the radios.

Radios and antennas will come and go, but the true treasures of our hobby are the people and the Elmers that support us and want us to succeed as ham radio operators. Elmers can take many forms, from the casual Elmer who offers a few pointers to the new ham, to the all-in type of Elmers who are willing to donate their time to fully set up a station and push the ham to all they can be in the hobby. Both types of Elmers are valuable in their own way.

Both types of Elmers can make the difference in a ham just wanting to be a Technician who casually chats on repeaters, to the Extra Class licensee, who is all about getting the awards that the ARRL offers, such as the DXCC award and the Worked All States Award.

During Field Day, hams from our Club get together and set up several stations from several modes, such as phone, CW, and FT8, to name a few. Club members take turns at the stations and accumulate points for the Club Station, W1HH. The tally of points

is sent in to the ARRL and you can measure how our Club did versus other individuals and other Clubs. But the real purpose of Field Day is to see how prepared our Club and other Clubs are for potential Emergency situation that may arise.

There are great opportunities to network at Field Day. You can put names to faces that you may have talked to on the repeaters or on HF. We have great food and drink, but, above all, we have great Club members who show up and make for a fun weekend.

You can stop by for an hour or so, or you can stay overnight to help the Club make contacts. Last year at Field Day, one of our Club members challenged me to get on SSB for two hours calling CQ. He knows that I am an FT8 addict, so he wants to see me explore the SSB mode more and make contacts that way to see how much fun it can be.

This year, I had two goals in the hobby. One was to get my Extra ticket, and the other was to learn CW. I got my Extra in March, so now I am going to focus on learning CW. We will have a CW station at Field Day, so I think I will sit at that station a while and pick up some pointers that will help me learn CW, the original digital mode.

So, as you can see, Field Day has something for everyone in the hobby. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Field Day at 67 Alexander Road in Billerica.

We will have a set up meeting Friday night, June 21, and we will start Field Day at 2:00 PM EDT on Saturday June 22 and continue straight through to 2:00 PM on Sunday June 23. Our Club's motto is G.O.T.A. (Get On The Air!) so come on by and have some fun with us on our biggest day of the year!

Until next time,

73,  
Doug  
N1WRN

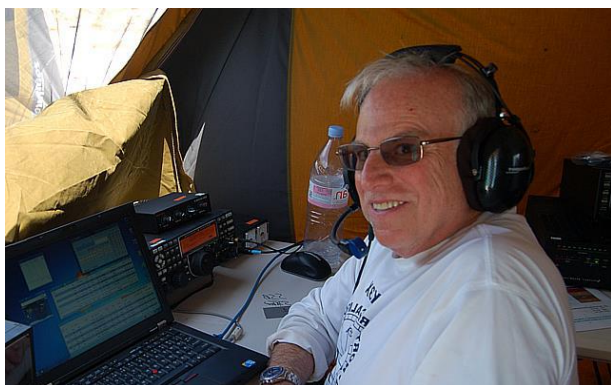
## Next BARS Zoom meeting: June 5 at 7:00 PM - "Clipperton Island 2024 TX5S DXpedition Highlights"

**Presenter: Gene Spinelli, K5GS**

I am pleased to announce that our Guest Speaker for our June 5, 2024 hybrid Club Meeting at the Church will be Gene Spinelli, K5GS, who was the co-founder of the DXpedition TX5S to Clipperton Island in late January of 2024.

### Presenter's Bio:

First licensed in 1976, my interest in electronics goes back to the teenage years. Joined the Navy Reserve while still in high school, attended Electronics Technician Class "A" School at Great Lakes, Illinois. Went on active duty and serviced radar and communications equipment aboard US Navy radar picket ships operating in the Southern Ocean, south of Campbell Island at 60 degrees south, 160 degrees east during Operation Deep Freeze, 1965 - 66 and 1966-67.



In 1966, while at sea, I studied for the Conditional Class License, but never took the test. My enlistment ended in 1967 and went into the computer service(s) business from where I retired after nearly 40 years, went back as a consultant for 5 more years.

While living in Arlington, Texas (1976) I took the Advanced Class test. It was given at the Dallas FCC office, I took the Extra Class test in 1988 while living in Boulder, Colorado.

Past call signs are: WB5WFD, WD6DLK, and KE6LT, currently hold VK2IXC and ZL1NA

After 31 years in Colorado, in September 2016 we moved from Divide, Colorado where my station was located at our mountain home, 9,200 feet (2,800 meters) above sea level.

Now located in Tucson, Arizona, we have a flat 3.3 acres on the Sonoran Desert, surrounded by many species of cacti, at an elevation of 2,500 feet (760 meters). The property is located in unincorporated Pima County, 15 minutes from all major shopping, restaurants, hospitals, etc.

In April 2017 I reinstalled my US Tower HDX-572 that was trucked from Colorado to Arizona. This part of Pima County is a ham friendly area, no drama to get a building permit, all done on-line.

Gene was first licensed in 1976 as WB5WFD, and has held K5GS since 1996; previous calls were WD6DLK and KE6LT.



He's an avid DXer, his DXCC total is 354 confirmed (mixed) with all current DXCC entities confirmed. Gene's radio interest has always been DXing with occasional diversions into restoring vintage radios and the digital modes. Previous DXpeditions include the 2012 ZL9HR Campbell Island, 2014 VK9MT Mellish Reef, 2015 TX3X Chesterfield Islands, 2018 VP6D Ducie Island, 2020 VP8PJ South Orkney Islands, and the 2022 TX5N Austral Islands.



He also holds call signs ZL1NA and VK2IXC. Gene retired from the Information Technology industry in 2012, he and his wife live in Tucson, Arizona.



We will announce the link to join the Zoom meeting before the meeting, but it will be posted to the BARS email list and should not be shared outside our Club. Are you on the email list? If not, please send an email to [bars-subscribe@w1hh.org](mailto:bars-subscribe@w1hh.org) and then simply reply to the robot response from the server and you will be subscribed.



Observing our Zoom meeting requires only a web browser and headphones/speakers. You do not need a webcam or microphone unless you want to speak or be seen.

Before our meeting date, please go to <https://zoom.us/test> and see if it will function for you. If you have problems, we can try to assist – feel free to ask questions on the BARS email list.

I am looking forward to “seeing” many of you on Wednesday 6/5 there at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN  
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

## From the Editor's Desk

### By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Great news: My antenna (which came down in last winter's only major snowstorm) is back up again! Now all I need to do is find the time to pump some RF into it while I'm preparing to take yet another trip to Hawaii.

Meanwhile, the sun has been throwing a tantrum. Radio blackouts on the HF bands have been the story most days in May. And May 10<sup>th</sup> brought a once-in-a-generation episode of Northern Lights. A few days later, a giant sunspot spewed the strongest solar flare (estimated at X8.7 or greater) of the current cycle. So, HF band conditions have been – to put it delicately – unstable.

But the same geomagnetic storms that are messing up HF may cause unexpected band openings on VHF. John, KC1FTJ was telling me the other day that on May 9<sup>th</sup> there was a short duration opening on six meters that allowed him to work into the Carolinas. So, I've learned a lesson: when the usual HF bands' propagation has been disrupted, it is not necessarily the time to shut the rig off and go do something else. Instead, it's time to QSY up to a higher frequency band.

And, as <https://www.spaceweather.com> put it, ‘the flares will continue until morale improves.’ So, if 20m seems dead when it shouldn't be, try 10m or 6m. You might find that there may be some surprise DX to work.

## Feature Article: “Field Day 2024”

### By Mark Nelson, KA1INE

It's that time of the year again to get ready for field day! This year it will be on Saturday, June 22nd and 23rd with partial setup of antennas on Friday June 21. If you've never been to field day before, the goal is to contact as many stations in a 24-hour period as possible to collect points and to enjoy the comradery of fellow hams. This is a nationwide contest where you can improve your operating skills and get to use privileges of the higher-class licensees with you. This is especially important for technicians to

have a chance to operate on the HF bands which is much different than on VHF.

As the field day chairman, I'm asking for volunteers to help setup and take down the antennas and tower, setting up the computers and runners to get the food. There is a fair amount to do so we ask that everyone help out and make it an enjoyable time. There will be sign-up sheets for the stations and time slots so everyone gets a chance to get on the air. Last year we went all night to make the most of the time with cat naps along the way.

One of the highlights is the food! Last year we had a variety of Stromboli's specialties which was excellent and in plentiful supply. They did a great job accommodating us at the last minute so we will most likely use them again.

Tentatively, field day will be held at the Billerica EOC, Emergency Operations Center like the last two years. It's a comfortable situation with bathrooms, places to sleep with cots, emergency power, and plenty of room to spread out.

Please plan ahead and I ask that you to email me to sign up for the volunteer positions. Most of the work is before and after field day so you can enjoy operating throughout the day. My email is [KA1INE@ARRL.com](mailto:KA1INE@ARRL.com).

More details to come as we firm up the logistics at the next board of directors meeting.

73,

Mark Nelson, KA1INE

## Strays

### A report from HAMVENTION in Xenia, OH.

I drove 13-1/2 hours to get there. I met up with my friends of the International Order of Krazies (I.O.O.K.) that I joined in 1982. (Check out [iook.org](http://iook.org) -- you may find more info than you wanted to know, LOL.)

We put up a tent in the flea market space inside the horse racing track.



I'll be spending a few extra days here and hope to be home by Friday. (May 24th)

--de Bill Poulin, WZ1L

### Becoming an ARRL member or is your membership up for renewal?

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL member renewals.

Each new ARRL member earns the club a \$15.00 commission. New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years. Each renewal earns the club a \$5.00 commission. There is no limit to the amount a club can earn in this program.

Multiyear memberships earn only one commission. Life, Family, International, Blind, and Student memberships are not eligible for a commission. The member will not be eligible to receive a gift or incentive if the club collects a commission on the membership.

Currently at least 82 BARS members are also ARRL members. If we all renewed through the club, we could potentially receive \$410 per year from the ARRL.

If you are interested in renewing your ARRL membership through the club fill out the following form [ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application \(pdf\)](#). Then forward it to [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto:W1LUS@hotmail.com)

### Is your Email address on the FCC site up to date?

#### § 97.23 Mailing and email addresses.

*Each license grant must show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence. Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.*

[85 FR 85533, Dec. 29, 2020]

I recommend that you log on to the "your FCC Registration" at <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/updateRegistrationPre.do> to make sure that your email address is up to date. Also, in the future should you change your home address, or your email address be sure to remember to update it on the FCC site.

*[The \$35 FCC application fee applies to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application.]*

*Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, and modification applications to upgrade an*

*amateur radio licensee's operator class or to request a sequentially issued call sign, are exempt from fees. – ed.]*

--de Bruce, W1LUS

### Making ZOOM available to Elmers

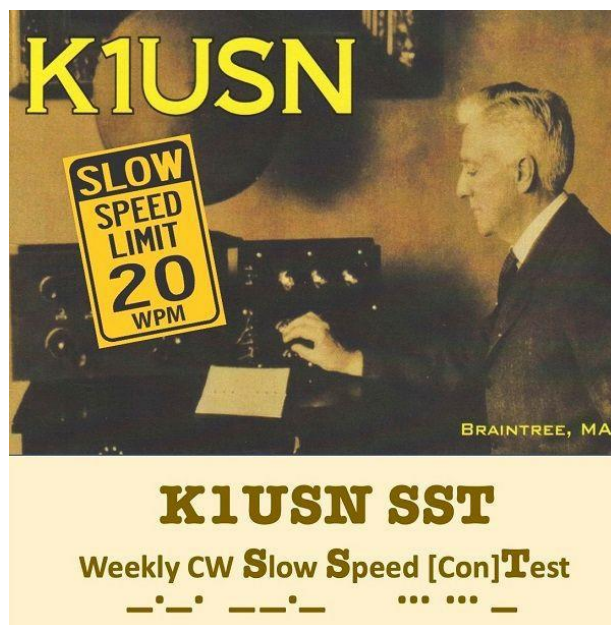
In this time of social distancing, we have been using Zoom for our monthly club meetings. I have been thinking that Elmers could also be using Zoom to coach new hams instead of actually going to visit with them. Elmers could perhaps help with programming a new radio with the new ham sharing their computer screen and the Elmer helping to walk them through the process. An Elmer could have Zoom on their cell phone and show a new ham how their shack was set up. Use your imagination and see how you might use this tool. If you would like to use Zoom for this, contact Bruce, [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto:W1LUS@hotmail.com), with a date and a time and a meeting will be setup for you. You may also contact Bruce if you would like training in using Zoom to Elmer someone.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

### Friday and Sunday Night CW Slow Speed Contest

Every Friday and Sunday night, there is a weekly slow-speed CW contest run by the local K1USN guys. This is a good way to polish up your CW skills. See <http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html> for details. Currently, the schedule is:

Fridays 20:00-21:00 UTC (3-4pm EST) and  
Mondays 00:00-01:00 UTC (7-8pm EST Sunday).



-- de Tom Walsh, K1TW

### Upgrading Your License? Here's a Resource

If you are thinking of upgrading your license using one of the Online exam sites. I recommend that you take some free practice exams on HamStudy.org. I recommend it because the software used to generate practice exams on HamStudy.org is the same software that is used to create exams for online tests. By doing that when you take an online upgrade exam the test question format will be familiar. With HamStudy.org practice tests you should use the keyboard to select the answer, A, B, C, or D and not your mouse as that is the way online exams are run.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

### Secretary's Reports

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF, Secretary

#### May BARS General Meeting

- Doug called us to order at 7:00.
- Business:
  - We are considering moving the net back to the Billerica repeater, but we need to ensure that MMRA, which now operates the Billerica repeater is okay with that.
  - Field Day is coming in June. Mark spoke about FD preparations:
    - He is looking for committee members to organize set up.
    - We need a cook or to choose a caterer.
    - The club authorized up to \$400 for FD expenses.
- Time was given for introductions.
- The program started at 7:25. It was recorded and the slide show "deck" should be available.
- The program ended at 8:35.
- We adjourned at 8:40
- Attending via Zoom: 14 people (and it appeared that there were about the same number attending in person)

#### May 29th BARS Board of Directors Meeting

I was unable to attend the meeting.

### BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 129, with 18 that haven't renewed their membership for 2024. Please check your email and your "Junk email" to see if you have a renewal invoice from PayPal.

Anyone with a question about their renewal status can email me at [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto:W1LUS@hotmail.com) to get your current membership status.

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

### 2024 BARS Member Dues

A \$15 annual BARS membership begins on January 1<sup>st</sup> and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Any renewal or new membership made after September 1<sup>st</sup> will be valid until December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Memberships allow us to

- pay our bills,
- maintain our great web page,
- fund field day,
- and bring the membership a great variety of informative meetings and speakers.

### Treasurers Report for June 2024

Dues for 2024 are now due. Dues for 2024 will remain at \$15. Dues can be paid several ways:

- via bank-to-bank transfer with Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, etc. by sending \$15 to [bars.dues@outlook.com](mailto:bars.dues@outlook.com),
- with credit card by using the Join/Renewal membership form on the W1HH.org website,
- or with cash or check by mailing \$15 to Billerica ARS, 16 Regis Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876

In May we had income of \$60 from 4 new / renewals, and \$5 from KE1LU's ARRL renewal; our expenses were Zoom \$16.99 and PayPal \$2.02. We now have \$1361.28 in the bank and \$1209.53 in our PayPal account for a total of \$2570.81.

Bruce Anderson  
W1LUS

### BARS Needs You!!!

We are looking for a few good hams to act as net control on the regularly scheduled Wednesday night nets! All it takes is one night a month; if you are interested contact Doug, N1WRN.

Also, the club needs volunteers for light tasks of about 1 hour a month. Are you able to pitch in? Contact Doug Bruce, N1WRN.

### Wednesday Night Net

Join us on the Westford 146.955 Repeater for the weekly BARS net each Wednesday at 8:00 PM (**except on the first Wednesday of the month which is club meeting night**). *Note: Thanks to the Westford Police Amateur Radio Team (PART) for their generous act of making their repeater available to us.*

Repeater info:  
WB1GOF  
146.955 MHz  
-600 kHz (normal) offset  
Encode CTCSS 74.4 Hz

Reminder: "kerchunking" the repeater is not only impolite, it's illegal. It constitutes an unidentified transmission. If you need to

check that you're making the repeater, say something like "This is <your call> standing by on the frequency." Thanks for your courtesy.

## Club Meetings

Club meetings are held in person (weather permitting) and via Zoom. A link will be sent via the BARS email reflector to all currently paid-up members who might wish to attend via Zoom.

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 PM Eastern time.

## VE Sessions

Our VE sessions are held in-person at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Pre-registration for our in-person exams is suggested. Contact [w1lus@hotmail.com](mailto:w1lus@hotmail.com) for registration information.

VE sessions are held every month on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 PM at Chelmsford Bible Church, 128 Gorham St., Chelmsford MA. Park in back and enter by rear door. [Chelmsford Bible Church Hall, 128 Gorham St, Rear Door, Chelmsford MA 01824-3220 \(map\)](#)

### VE Session Report for May 2024

We had twelve people show up for the May 9<sup>th</sup> VE exam session. We created five new Technicians: KC1UUT, KC1UUZ, KC1UUY, and KC1UVA; four General upgrades; one new Extra, AC1RT; and one Extra upgrade. Be sure to greet them if you hear them on the air.

Our next exam session will be on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Chelmsford Bible Church.

Thanks to Gary, W1GFF, and Bill, W1ZL, for helping run this exam session.

While walk-ins are still welcome it speeds the process up if you pre-register for your BARS VE exam session at <https://HamStudy.org>.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

## BARS Does breakfast every Saturday.

On Saturday mornings at 8:15AM, we meet for a casual, social breakfast at Stelio's restaurant in Billerica.  
[Stelio's Family Restaurant, Billerica, MA](#)

## Future Meetings

**The July meeting will be on 7/3 and will be hybrid – in person AND via Zoom.**

## Subscribe to the BARS Mailing List

To subscribe to the BARS email list, send a blank email to [bars-subscribe@w1hh.org](mailto:bars-subscribe@w1hh.org) and watch for an automated reply. Note that bars-subscribe is all one word.

Reply to that message from the list server and you are then subscribed.

To post to the list, address your email to [bars@w1hh.org](mailto:bars@w1hh.org)

## May Get-on-the-Air Suggestions from Scott Ginsburg, K1OA

BARS is a "get-on-the-air" (GOTA) club. We encourage members to participate in the varied events on HF and VHF.

If you haven't yet seen the 2023 DXCC Year End Review by Joe Reiser, W1JR, check it out at <http://hamgallery.com/W1JR/>. There you'll find an archive of Joe's annual reports on DX activities throughout each year, written by one of the most experienced DXers in the world. Joe is very active on the bands and his reviews provide DX statistics and other insights gained from his yearly experiences. For example, in 2023 Joe notes that there were 287 DXCC entities on the air and 3 on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List top 20 were activated. Joe's annual review is a must read for the serious DXer.

Here are the popular suggestions for this month:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Jun 1-2	ARRL International Digital Contest <a href="https://contests.arrl.org/dig/">https://contests.arrl.org/dig/</a>
<b>Jun 8-10</b>	<b>ARRL June VHF Contest **</b> <a href="http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf">http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf</a>
Jun 15	ARRL Kids Day <a href="http://www.arrl.org/kids-day">http://www.arrl.org/kids-day</a>
<b>Jun 22-23</b>	<b>ARRL Field Day **</b> <a href="http://www.arrl.org/field-day">http://www.arrl.org/field-day</a>

### \*\* Top recommendation for this month

Recurring Events – visit webpage for exact times and dates:

K1USN Slow Speed Test - Every Friday 20:00 UTC / Every Monday 00:00 UTC <http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Weekend Sprintathon – the Saturday following the 6<sup>th</sup> of every month at 1200 UTC  
[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekend\\_sprintathon](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon)

Details on each contest above and more events can be found every week on the WA7BNM contest calendar at:  
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php?mode=custom&week=current>



## BARS Leadership Team

### OFFICERS:

President: Doug Bruce, N1WRN  
Vice President: Mark Nelson, KA1INE  
Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS  
Secretary: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF  
BoD: Bill Poulin, WZ1L  
BoD: Steve Wedge, W1ES/4  
Ex Officio: Gary Frascarelli, W1GFF

### VOLUNTEERS:

Net Coordinator: Doug Bruce, N1WRN  
Newsletter Editor: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF  
New Member Outreach: John Fisher, KC1FTJ  
Field Day Chair: Mark Nelson, KA1INE